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Maryland
Department of Economic & Employment Development

LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS

A Monthly Report on the Dynamics of the Labor Market in Maryland

April and May, 1988

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

William Donald Schaefer
Governor

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Secretary

LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS
APRIL, 1988

MARYLAND

SPRINGTIME HIRING LOWERS UNEMPLOYMENT

Springtime hiring, although somewhat slower than the norm, helped to bolster Maryland's job market during April. Responding to the expansion in employment opportunities, total unemployment in the state fell from 4.6 percent of the labor force in March to 4.0 percent in April. The current rate of joblessness, which shows a marked improvement over this year's high of 5.2 percent in January, is slightly below last April's estimate of 4.2 percent and considerably below the long-term monthly average (1980-1987) of 5.9 percent. Historically, this marks the lowest rate for an April since the 3.9 percent recorded in 1973.

	April 1988	March 1988	April 1987
Civilian Labor Force	2,405,632	2,401,371	2,397,708
Total Employment	2,309,869	2,290,423	2,297,015
Total Unemployment	95,763	110,948	100,693
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.6	4.2
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.9	6.2

The statewide labor pool, estimated at 2,401,371 in March, rose to 2,405,632 in April. The success rate of new and re-entrant jobseekers in finding employment was clearly evident as unemployment fell by 15,185 persons while employment expanded by 19,446 persons to total 2,309,869.

Since last April, the labor market experience of Maryland residents has improved noticeably. The number of participants in the labor market has risen by slightly more than 7,900 persons over the year. More importantly, there are now 12,854 more residents with jobs and 4,930 fewer persons on the jobless rolls.

Nationally, the unemployment rate declined by a like 0.6 percentage points over the month to register 5.3 percent in April. The U.S. rate, although falling, topped Maryland's estimate by 1.3 percentage points in April.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLLS STIMULATED BY SEASONAL ACTIVITY

With spring hiring underway, Maryland's nonagricultural payroll employment increased by an estimated 5,600 jobs during April. This year's spring expansion, however, got off to a relatively slow start, running substantially behind the pace set in 1987. Last year, seasonal hiring added a much higher 24,000 jobs to the statewide industrial payrolls.

SERVICE PROVIDERS LEAD THE WAY

The services industries led the April expansion, providing area jobseekers with an estimated 2,900 opportunities. Job gains in services were largely seasonal, with hiring activity strongest in amusement/recreation, hotels/lodging places, and agricultural services. Additional hiring was also noted in health services and membership organizations. On the down side, employment in educational services declined somewhat due to spring vacations at private colleges and universities. Employment in business services also dropped off as firms engaged in income tax preparation began to pare their staffs as the filing period came to a clos..

Trade establishments also boosted their payrolls during April, adding an estimated 1,700 jobs. On the retail level, hiring activity was strongest in eating/drinking establishments, building materials/gardening supply stores, and home furnishing outlets.

On the goods-producing side of the economy, scattered layoffs in manufacturing reduced the overall industry employment total by 400 jobs. Reduced employment levels were noted in transportation equipment, apparel/textiles and printing/publishing, in particular. On the up side, construction continued to pull out of its winter doldrums, adding an estimated 2,800 jobs during April. The primary growth contributor in the sector was heavy trade contractors.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

APRIL 1988

Major Industry Grouping	April 1988	March 1988	April 1987
Total Nonagricultural Employment	2028.1	2022.5	2006.0
Manufacturing	205.7	206.1	206.7
Durable Goods	109.1	109.1	110.3
Nondurable Goods	96.6	97.0	96.4
Nonmanufacturing	1822.4	1816.4	1799.3
Mining	1.8	1.7	1.8
Construction	150.0	147.2	147.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	91.3	91.2	92.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	516.7	515.0	507.8
Wholesale Trade	110.9	110.5	108.4
Retail Trade	405.8	404.5	399.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	125.9	125.9	122.8
Services	542.8	539.9	531.1
Total Government	393.9	395.5	396.1
Federal	127.5	127.7	130.3
State	92.4	92.1	92.3
Local	174.0	175.7	173.5

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.
Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

Seasonal hiring also helped to improve economic conditions in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area during April. A decline of 8,579 persons on the region's jobless rolls helped to reduce the area's unemployment rate by almost a full percentage point to register 4.3 percent in April. Last April's rate was slightly higher at 4.6 percent. Baltimore City had the highest jobless rate in the region, however, it did drop significantly from 7.7 percent in March to 6.8 percent in April. In the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, industrial payrolls were boosted by the addition of 4,900 jobs over the month. Job gains were particularly noteworthy within construction and trade.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

The unemployment rate in Maryland's D.C. suburbs edged down from 3.1 percent in March to 2.9 percent in April. A regional employment gain of 5,685 persons was more than enough to offset a rise of 3,688 persons in the labor force and sufficiently strong enough to reduce unemployment volume by 1,997. Unemployment declined in each of the region's local jurisdictions, with jobless rates in April ranging from 2.4 percent in Montgomery County to 4.2 percent in Calvert County. In the D.C. area, hiring activity was strongest in construction, especially among heavy trade contractors, and in services.

WESTERN MARYLAND

Regionally, the state's highest unemployment rate was found in Western Maryland. Unemployment in the Western region, although declining, tipped the scale at 7.2 percent, down from 9.0 percent in March. In absolute terms, this translates into a reduction of 1,917 persons on the unemployment rolls. The largest decline, from 12.1 percent to 8.8 percent, occurred in Garrett County. Jobseekers in the area were aided primarily by seasonal increases in services and construction.

BALANCE OF STATE

In the Shore Area, unemployment declined by 1.5 percentage points over the month to register 5.4 percent in April. Seasonal hiring activity over the month boosted regional payrolls by slightly more than 3,000 jobs. Trade and services, when combined, accounted for more than 85.0 percent of the region's industrial growth. In Worcester County, the jobless rate declined from 10.9 percent to 6.4 percent as employers began to rebuild their work forces in anticipation of the influx of tourists into Ocean City.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY - BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--APRIL 1988

Major Industry Grouping	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Balance of State	
	Apr. 1988	Mar.1988	Apr. 1988	Mar.1988	Apr. 1988	Mar.1988	Apr. 1988	Mar.1988
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1089.4	1084.5	721.8	721.0	85.3	84.4	133.0	129.9
Manufacturing	130.9	131.3	35.8	35.8	16.0	15.9	23.7	23.4
Durable Goods	74.0	74.3	18.7	18.6	7.4	7.2	8.7	8.7
Nondurable Goods	56.9	57.0	17.1	17.2	8.6	8.7	15.0	14.7
Nonmanufacturing	958.5	953.2	686.0	685.2	69.3	68.5	109.3	106.5
Construction	73.0	71.3	63.3	61.8	5.0	4.6	9.8	9.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	52.8	52.3	27.2	27.1	5.3	5.3	7.5	7.5
Wholesale and Retail Trade	267.2	265.7	192.2	192.6	23.1	23.0	35.1	33.7
Wholesale Trade	64.6	64.4	36.2	36.0	-	-	-	-
Retail Trade	202.6	201.3	156.0	156.6	-	-	-	-
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	74.0	74.4	42.0	41.7	3.0	2.9	5.0	5.0
Services and Mining	286.6	286.4	211.1	210.6	18.5	18.3	28.6	27.4
Total Government	204.9	203.1	150.2	151.4	14.4	14.4	23.3	23.4
Federal	49.5	49.5	67.0	67.1	1.8	1.8	6.2	6.2
State	63.0	62.6	19.7	19.3	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.7
Local	92.4	91.0	63.5	65.0	8.1	8.1	12.4	12.5

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.
Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

APRIL, 1988

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL '87
MARYLAND	2,405,632	2,401,371	2,309,869	2,290,423	95,763	110,948	4.0	4.6	4.2
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,156,739	1,158,563	1,106,551	1,099,796	50,188	58,767	4.3	5.1	4.6
BALTIMORE CITY	339,484	340,788	316,515	314,583	22,969	26,205	6.8	7.7	7.0
ANNE ARUNDEL	205,973	205,869	200,005	198,784	5,968	7,085	2.9	3.4	3.1
BALTIMORE	376,128	375,665	361,629	359,421	14,499	16,244	3.9	4.3	4.0
CARROLL	58,187	58,809	56,746	56,400	1,441	2,409	2.5	4.1	3.6
HARFORD	76,560	77,182	73,530	73,081	3,030	4,101	4.0	5.3	4.0
HOWARD	85,828	85,533	84,040	83,527	1,788	2,006	2.1	2.3	2.2
QUEEN ANNE'S	14,579	14,716	14,086	14,000	493	716	3.4	4.9	4.4
D. C. AREA	952,288	948,600	924,537	918,852	27,751	29,748	2.9	3.1	3.1
CALVERT	21,351	21,348	20,456	20,330	895	1,018	4.2	4.8	4.3
CHARLES	44,532	44,539	43,325	43,059	1,207	1,480	2.7	3.3	2.8
FREDERICK	72,248	72,606	70,136	69,705	2,112	2,901	2.9	4.0	4.4
MONTGOMERY	404,294	402,395	394,717	392,290	9,577	10,105	2.4	2.5	2.4
PRINCE GEORGE'S	409,863	407,711	395,903	393,468	13,960	14,243	3.4	3.5	3.5
WESTERN MARYLAND	99,735	100,177	92,586	91,111	7,149	9,066	7.2	9.0	7.2
ALLEGANY	32,041	32,279	29,215	28,752	2,826	3,527	8.8	10.9	9.1
GARRETT	11,934	12,080	10,881	10,613	1,053	1,467	8.8	12.1	9.8
WASHINGTON	55,760	55,818	52,490	51,746	3,270	4,072	5.9	7.3	5.6
BALANCE OF STATE	196,870	194,032	186,194	180,665	10,676	13,367	5.4	6.9	5.8
CAROLINE	13,732	13,690	13,128	12,902	604	788	4.4	5.8	6.3
CECIL	33,302	33,604	31,567	31,304	1,735	2,300	5.2	6.8	7.6
DORCHESTER	17,408	17,047	16,426	15,623	982	1,424	5.6	8.4	7.9
KENT	9,092	8,701	8,676	8,229	416	472	4.6	5.4	4.3
ST. MARY'S	34,945	35,326	33,351	33,435	1,594	1,891	4.6	5.4	3.6
SOMERSET	11,843	10,822	10,306	9,315	1,537	1,507	13.0	13.9	11.0
TALBOT	16,151	15,965	15,654	15,424	497	541	3.1	3.4	3.3
WICOMICO	40,668	40,992	38,628	38,500	2,040	2,492	5.0	6.1	4.8
WORCESTER	19,729	17,885	18,458	15,933	1,271	1,952	6.4	10.9	6.1
[1] UNITED STATES	120,264,000	119,957,000	113,905,000	112,867,000	6,359,000	7,090,000	5.3	5.9	6.2

*Estimates for the state are revised.

[1] Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS
MAY, 1988

MARYLAND

JOBLESSNESS RISES AFTER HITTING FIFTEEN YEAR LOW

Maryland's unemployment rate, which has steadily fallen since January, experienced a minor setback in May. After dropping to a fifteen year low for unemployment in April, the jobless rate inched up marginally in May, by 0.1 percentage points, to register 4.1 percent. The over-the-month increase in the unemployment rate, although contrary to the labor market experience of prior years, places this May's estimate at the same level recorded for May 1987.

	May 1988	April 1988	May 1987
Civilian Labor Force	2,435,608	2,406,385	2,412,632
Total Employment	2,335,540	2,310,505	2,314,147
Total Unemployment	100,068	95,880	98,485
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.0	4.1
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.3	6.1

Despite the increase in Maryland's unemployment estimate, the actual number of residents employed rose by slightly more than 25,000 persons over the month, from 2,310,505 in April to 2,335,540 in May. However, as summer workers and students began to enter the job market, the benefit of this employment expansion was masked by a slightly higher increase of 29,223 persons in the labor force. This imbalance was highlighted by the addition of an estimated 4,188 persons to the statewide jobless rolls.

The direction of labor market activity in Maryland during May was closely aligned with the national forecast. While the number of American workers rose over the month, expansion in the labor force overshadowed employment gains, causing unemployment to rise from 5.3 percent in April to 5.4 percent in May.

SEASONAL GAINS CONTINUE, ALBEIT SLOWLY

Although seasonal hiring continued to increase the job count on Maryland's industrial payrolls, the overall movement was considerably less than the normal springtime expansion. During May, the count of nonfarm jobs rose by just 9,600 - an increase which paled in comparison to last May's gain of 19,500 jobs. The lag in May's job gains, however, is not a sudden aberration since increases in industrial payrolls have been below expectations throughout 1988.

The expansion in industrial payroll employment during May resulted entirely from job generation in the state's nonmanufacturing industries.

Trade registered a seasonal gain of 7,700 jobs during May - an increase identical to that of last May. Although sporadic hiring occurred throughout the trade sector, the primary growth contributor was eating and drinking establishments. Job generation in local eateries accounted for more than 50.0 percent of the overall expansion in the trade sector.

The construction industry contributed an estimated 2,500 jobs to the statewide labor market during May, adding to the growth of 4,200 since its wintertime low this February. Job gains this year have been much more limited than those of last year. The increase in mortgage lending rates has, in large part, contributed to this disparity.

In the services sector, the unusually cool temperatures which dominated the forecast during May caused employers to temper their pre-season hiring patterns. Overall employment in the sector increased by 1,300 jobs during May. The expansion in job opportunities, although highest in hotels/lodging places and amusement/recreation, was significantly below the mark set last year.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

MAY 1988

Major Industry Grouping	May 1988	April 1988	May 1987
Total Nonagricultural Employment	2038.4	2028.8	2025.5
Manufacturing	204.5	205.4	206.9
Durable Goods	108.5	108.8	109.9
Nondurable Goods	96.0	96.6	97.0
Nonmanufacturing	1833.9	1823.4	1818.6
Mining	1.8	1.8	1.9
Construction	151.6	149.1	151.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	91.9	91.6	93.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade	522.5	517.2	515.5
Wholesale Trade	110.9	110.7	109.0
Retail Trade	411.6	406.5	406.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	126.3	126.0	124.1
Services	544.8	543.5	536.3
Total Government	395.0	394.2	396.4
Federal	127.6	127.5	130.5
State	92.3	92.7	92.1
Local	175.1	174.0	173.8

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

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REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

Throughout the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, the number of unemployed persons rose by nearly 2,300 over the month. Reacting to this increase in unemployment volume, the region's jobless rate rose slightly, from 4.4 percent in April to 4.5 percent in May. The unemployment impact was particularly evident in Queen Anne's County where the jobless rate escalated from 3.4 percent in April to 4.2 percent in May.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

Unemployment in the D.C. suburbs also rose by a slight 0.1 percentage points over the month, reaching 3.0 percent in May. All of the area's local jurisdictions, with the exception of Frederick County where the jobless rate held steady at 2.9 percent, reflected the regional unemployment upturn.

WESTERN MARYLAND

In Western Maryland, the overall jobless rate rose to 7.4 percent in May, up from that of 7.2 percent recorded in April. In Washington County, employment growth fell considerably below labor force expansion, causing the county's jobless rate to increase noticeably from 5.8 percent to 6.6 percent. The opposite was true in Allegany County where unemployment declined from 8.8 percent to 8.5 percent and, in Garrett County, where joblessness also subsided from 8.7 percent to 8.6 percent.

BALANCE OF STATE

The seasonal nature of the shore's economy caused the area's unemployment rate to increase from 5.4 percent in April to 5.6 percent in May. Reduced activity in the shore's food processing industry contributed to increased unemployment levels in a number of the area's local jurisdictions. In both Somerset and Worcester Counties, unemployment, although declining, was noticeably above last year's recorded levels.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY - BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--MAY 1988

Major Industry Grouping	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Balance of State	
	May 1988	Apr.1988	May 1988	Apr.1988	May 1988	Apr.1988	May 1988	Apr.1988
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1092.4	1087.2	723.3	720.1	86.2	85.3	134.8	133.3
Manufacturing	130.4	130.5	35.6	35.7	16.0	16.0	23.0	23.7
Durable Goods	73.5	73.8	18.5	18.6	7.5	7.4	8.7	8.7
Nondurable Goods	56.9	56.7	17.1	17.1	8.5	8.6	14.3	15.0
Nonmanufacturing	962.0	956.7	687.7	684.4	70.2	69.3	111.8	109.6
Construction	73.9	72.9	63.2	61.7	5.3	4.9	10.3	9.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	53.0	52.9	26.6	26.6	5.4	5.3	7.5	7.5
Wholesale and Retail Trade	269.8	267.3	193.5	193.0	23.4	23.2	36.0	35.2
Wholesale Trade	64.8	64.7	36.3	36.2	-	-	-	-
Retail Trade	205.0	202.6	157.2	156.8	-	-	-	-
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	74.3	74.1	42.3	42.0	3.0	3.0	5.1	5.0
Services and Mining	287.7	286.4	210.5	211.0	18.6	18.5	29.6	28.7
Total Government	203.3	203.1	151.6	150.1	14.5	14.4	23.3	23.4
Federal	49.3	49.5	67.0	66.9	1.8	1.8	6.2	6.2
State	62.8	62.9	19.8	19.7	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.7
Local	91.2	90.7	64.8	63.5	8.2	8.1	12.7	12.5

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

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BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

MAY, 1988

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	MAY	APRIL*	MAY	APRIL*	MAY	APRIL*	MAY	APRIL*	MAY '87
MARYLAND	2,435,608	2,406,385	2,335,540	2,310,505	100,068	95,880	4.1	4.0	4.1
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,170,795	1,156,627	1,118,206	1,106,312	52,589	50,315	4.5	4.4	4.5
BALTIMORE CITY	343,587	339,476	319,849	316,447	23,738	23,029	6.9	6.8	7.0
ANNE ARUNDEL	208,479	205,924	202,111	199,962	6,368	5,962	3.1	2.9	3.2
BALTIMORE	380,684	376,099	365,438	361,551	15,246	14,548	4.0	3.9	3.9
CARROLL	58,823	58,190	57,344	56,734	1,479	1,456	2.5	2.5	3.7
HARFORD	77,489	76,542	74,305	73,514	3,184	3,028	4.1	4.0	3.8
HOWARD	86,868	85,823	84,925	84,022	1,943	1,801	2.2	2.1	2.1
QUEEN ANNE'S	14,865	14,575	14,234	14,083	631	492	4.2	3.4	4.2
D. C. AREA	963,035	952,436	934,287	924,666	28,748	27,770	3.0	2.9	3.1
CALVERT	21,628	21,367	20,671	20,458	957	909	4.4	4.3	4.0
CHARLES	45,097	44,543	43,782	43,331	1,315	1,212	2.9	2.7	2.7
FREDERICK	72,978	72,247	70,876	70,146	2,102	2,101	2.9	2.9	4.0
MONTGOMERY	409,116	404,438	398,880	394,773	10,236	9,665	2.5	2.4	2.4
PRINCE GEORGE'S	414,216	409,841	400,078	395,958	14,138	13,883	3.4	3.4	3.5
WESTERN MARYLAND	101,709	99,868	94,161	92,738	7,548	7,130	7.4	7.1	6.9
ALLEGANY	32,520	32,101	29,763	29,272	2,757	2,829	8.5	8.8	8.0
GARRETT	12,295	11,940	11,242	10,899	1,053	1,041	8.6	8.7	8.1
WASHINGTON	56,894	55,827	53,156	52,567	3,738	3,260	6.6	5.8	6.0
BALANCE OF STATE	200,071	197,455	188,888	186,790	11,183	10,665	5.6	5.4	4.9
CAROLINE	13,996	13,785	13,302	13,180	694	605	5.0	4.4	5.4
CECIL	33,734	33,319	31,995	31,587	1,739	1,732	5.2	5.2	5.2
DORCHESTER	17,367	17,467	16,028	16,490	1,339	977	7.7	5.6	6.5
KENT	9,383	9,125	8,730	8,708	653	417	7.0	4.6	4.1
ST. MARY'S	35,441	35,061	33,814	33,463	1,627	1,598	4.6	4.6	4.8
SOMERSET	11,885	11,874	10,597	10,341	1,288	1,533	10.8	12.9	7.6
TALBOT	16,374	16,215	15,619	15,715	755	500	4.6	3.1	2.7
WICOMICO	40,044	40,815	38,025	38,779	2,019	2,036	5.0	5.0	4.7
WORCESTER	21,847	19,794	20,778	18,527	1,069	1,267	4.9	6.4	3.7
[1] UNITED STATES	120,775,000	120,264,000	114,222,000	113,905,000	6,553,000	6,359,000	5.4	5.3	6.1

*Estimates for the state are revised.

[1] Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

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LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS

A Monthly Report on the Dynamics of the Labor Market in Maryland

June, 1988

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

William Donald Schaefer
Governor

J. Randall Evans
Secretary

LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS
JUNE, 1988

MARYLAND

SEASONAL INFLUENCES INCREASE UNEMPLOYMENT

Seasonal trends dominated Maryland's labor market during June. As students and summer workers entered the work force, the additional pressure exerted by these new jobseekers caused Maryland's unemployment rate to rise from 4.1 percent in May to 4.4 percent in June. The over-the-month movement in the unemployment rate, although consistent with past years, reflects a slightly higher increase than last year when joblessness rose by just 0.1 percentage points to reach its June level of 4.2 percent. This June's rate, although moderately above last year's recorded level, represents a significant improvement over the long-term monthly average. From an historical perspective, the unemployment rate in June over the past seven years (1981-1987) has averaged 5.8 percent.

	June 1988	May 1988	June 1987
Civilian Labor Force	2,458,975	2,436,543	2,427,683
Total Employment	2,350,497	2,336,399	2,324,923
Total Unemployment	108,478	100,144	102,760
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.1	4.2
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.4	6.3

Between May and June, more than 22,400 persons joined the statewide labor pool, bringing the total labor force estimate to a new all-time high. Although employment also climbed to a record-breaking level of 2,350,497, the increasing job demands created by a rapidly expanding labor force undermined the monthly employment gains of 14,098 persons. The interaction of these labor force changes caused the statewide jobless rolls to rise to 108,478 in June, up from 100,144 in May.

On average, jobseekers across the nation fared slightly better than those in Maryland during June. The rate of employment expansion nationally surpassed the statewide gain by a ratio of almost 3 to 1. Despite this relatively healthy employment gain, a slightly higher labor force expansion caused the national unemployment rate to edge up from 5.4 percent in May to 5.5 percent in June.

SEASONAL HIRING PROCEEDS BUT AT A SLOWER PACE THAN IN 1987

Since the start of 1988, employment has steadily expanded, increasing by 36,700 jobs between January and June. Seasonal hiring activity in June accounted for slightly more than 12.0 percent, or 4,600 jobs, of this overall expansion. Hiring activity this year, however, has been relatively sluggish when compared to last year's January-June gains of 98,800 jobs. In June 1987 alone, industrial payrolls expanded by slightly more than 25,000 jobs.

The growth in employment opportunities during June resulted entirely from increased activity generated by the state's private sector employers. The most significant gains emanated from seasonal hiring in amusement/recreation, eating and drinking establishments, agricultural services, trucking, and food processing. In addition, increased demand helped to elevate employment levels in food stores and in health, business, and legal services. The combined effect of these, and other sporadic gains, helped to neutralize the employment downswings in education which affected state and local government payrolls and educational services.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

JUNE 1988

Major Industry Grouping	June 1988	May 1988	June 1987
Total Nonagricultural Employment	2043.8	2039.2	2050.7
Manufacturing	206.6	204.1	207.6
Durable Goods	108.8	108.0	110.3
Nondurable Goods	97.8	96.1	97.3
Nonmanufacturing	1837.2	1835.1	1843.2
Mining	1.9	1.8	1.9
Construction	151.5	151.0	155.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	92.6	92.3	94.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade	525.5	522.8	523.7
Wholesale Trade	110.1	110.6	110.1
Retail Trade	415.4	412.2	413.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	128.2	126.9	126.0
Services	550.1	544.0	548.8
Total Government	387.4	396.3	392.7
Federal	128.1	127.6	131.5
State	89.4	92.5	89.8
Local	169.9	176.2	171.4

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.
Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

June unemployment in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area rose to 5.0 percent, up from 4.5 percent in May. The increase in the metropolitan area's jobless estimate occurred despite a gain of 8,272 in the number of workers recorded between May and June. All of the region's local jurisdictions, with the exception of Queen Anne's County where increased activity helped to stave off rising joblessness, experienced increased unemployment. In general, industrial activity in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area followed the expected seasonal norm, with job gains foremost in amusement/recreation, construction, and eating/drinking establishments and declines centered primarily in local education and educational services.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

In Maryland's D.C. suburbs, unemployment also advanced, by 0.2 percentage points, to register 3.2 in June--a rate identical to that recorded in June, 1987. Although seasonal hiring helped to boost payrolls in construction, trucking, amusement/recreation, and trade, the end of the term layoffs in school systems and the seasonal increase in new and re-entrant workers into the labor force impacted negatively upon the area's unemployment picture.

WESTERN MARYLAND

The unemployment rate in Western Maryland stabilized in June, holding at the May rate of 7.4 percent. Last year's June jobless rate was noticeably higher at 8.0 percent. Despite this June's seemingly stable picture, overall employment in the region dropped by 261 persons--a decline which was masked by the withdrawal of these workers from the labor force. In Washington County, the reduction in the local labor force was the primary factor in lowering the county's unemployment volume by 361 persons and the unemployment rate from 6.5 percent to 6.0 percent. In Allegany and Garrett counties, however, a contrasting picture unfolded whereby labor force expansion, albeit negligible, served to increase the unemployment burden in these two counties.

BALANCE OF STATE

In the Balance of State area, a region where the economy is affected by a strong degree of seasonality, unemployment dropped back from 5.6 percent to 5.3 percent. Seasonal fluctuations were apparent throughout the region where unemployment rates in June ranged from a low of 3.3 percent in Worcester County to a high of 8.6 percent in Somerset County. Although many of the local economies in the shore area have been negatively impacted of late by drought conditions and below normal seafood harvesting activities, seasonal labor market activity was characteristically strong in Worcester County. During June, the burgeoning tourist trade in Worcester County helped to provide jobs for more than 4,200 new and re-entrant jobseekers.

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STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

JUNE, 1988

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JUNE	MAY*	JUNE	MAY*	JUNE	MAY*	JUNE	MAY*	JUNE '87
MARYLAND	2,458,975	2,436,543	2,350,497	2,336,399	108,478	100,144	4.4	4.1	4.2
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,184,840	1,170,073	1,125,729	1,117,457	59,111	52,616	5.0	4.5	4.6
BALTIMORE CITY	348,467	343,435	322,001	319,635	26,466	23,800	7.6	6.9	7.0
ANNE ARUNDEL	210,645	208,336	203,471	201,976	7,174	6,360	3.4	3.1	3.3
BALTIMORE	385,346	380,397	367,896	365,193	17,450	15,204	4.5	4.0	4.0
CARROLL	59,504	58,804	57,730	57,306	1,774	1,498	3.0	2.5	3.8
HARFORD	78,304	77,414	74,805	74,255	3,499	3,159	4.5	4.1	3.9
HOWARD	87,679	86,827	85,496	84,868	2,183	1,959	2.5	2.3	2.2
QUEEN ANNE'S	14,895	14,862	14,330	14,225	565	637	3.8	4.3	3.6
D. C. AREA	967,753	963,606	936,697	934,812	31,056	28,794	3.2	3.0	3.2
CALVERT	21,791	21,640	20,725	20,683	1,066	957	4.9	4.4	4.3
CHARLES	45,368	45,138	43,895	43,807	1,473	1,331	3.2	2.9	2.9
FREDERICK	73,229	73,005	71,059	70,916	2,170	2,089	3.0	2.9	3.8
MONTGOMERY	410,898	409,343	399,909	399,104	10,989	10,239	2.7	2.5	2.5
PRINCE GEORGE'S	416,468	414,480	401,110	400,302	15,358	14,178	3.7	3.4	3.7
WESTERN MARYLAND	101,765	102,058	94,236	94,497	7,529	7,561	7.4	7.4	8.0
ALLEGANY	32,671	32,628	29,711	29,857	2,960	2,771	9.1	8.5	10.5
GARRETT	12,462	12,342	11,267	11,287	1,195	1,055	9.6	8.5	8.5
WASHINGTON	56,632	57,088	53,258	53,353	3,374	3,735	6.0	6.5	6.4
BALANCE OF STATE	204,620	200,805	193,837	189,634	10,783	11,171	5.3	5.6	5.0
CAROLINE	13,955	14,068	13,353	13,372	602	696	4.3	4.9	4.8
CECIL	34,227	33,698	32,352	31,961	1,875	1,737	5.5	5.2	5.7
DORCHESTER	17,662	17,442	16,213	16,115	1,449	1,327	8.2	7.6	7.4
KENT	9,053	9,432	8,719	8,779	334	653	3.7	6.9	4.9
ST. MARY'S	35,587	35,547	33,886	33,913	1,701	1,634	4.8	4.6	4.7
SOMERSET	11,686	11,920	10,683	10,652	1,003	1,268	8.6	10.6	6.8
TALBOT	16,130	16,473	15,429	15,706	701	767	4.3	4.7	3.7
WICOMICO	40,122	40,262	37,879	38,243	2,243	2,019	5.6	5.0	4.8
WORCESTER	26,198	21,963	25,323	20,893	875	1,070	3.3	4.9	3.2
[1] UNITED STATES	123,028,000	120,775,000	116,209,000	114,222,000	6,819,000	6,553,000	5.5	5.4	6.3

*Estimates for the state are revised.

[1] Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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